EINE FESTE BURG | A CHORAL CELEBRATION
In Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
Leipzig, Germany :: June 17–23, 2017

with
Maestro Helmuth Rilling &
Dr. Anton Armstrong
THE ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

- Sing as part of a highly select honor choir with a professional orchestra in the Thomaskirche, Bach’s church
- Perform Bach Cantata, Motets and other repertoire commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation
- Be inspired and learn from Professor Helmuth Rilling and Dr. Anton Armstrong
- Experience the historical sights of the Reformation in Germany

Prof. Rilling is a pre-eminent scholar and conductor of works by J.S. Bach and together with Dr. Anton Armstrong, Conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, he will lead a Gala Concert Performance at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig in commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The seven day program includes extensive rehearsals and study sessions with Maestro Rilling and Dr. Armstrong. It will culminate in a performance of the Bach Cantata “Eine feste Burg ist unser Gott” BWV 80 and other Bach masterpieces at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig where Bach is buried. You will also visit and sing at the most important sites associated with the Reformation including the Wartburg Castle and the Schlosskirche in Wittenberg.

THE REFORMATION & ITS INFLUENCE ON MUSIC

Martin Luther was himself a musician, who sang (in a tenor voice), played the lute, and composed tunes. For Luther, music was next in importance to theology, a living voice of the Gospel, a gift from God to be used in all its fullness in Christian praise and prayer. From Luther’s Latin Mass and his German Mass to the present music has been an integral part of Worship. Not only are hymns expected in the Worship service, but the service itself is expected to be chanted, at least by the congregation and usually by the minister as well. Luther’s fellow Reformer Huldrych Zwingli was an accomplished musician as well. A remarkable singer, he could also play seven instruments, and is known as the composer of several Reformation hymns. Many years later, the Reformation had a pronounced effect on some of the world’s leading composers such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Friedrich Händel and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.

THE ORGANIZERS

Perform International is a Music Touring Company with offices in Atlanta, Colorado Springs and Honolulu. We are dedicated to providing exceptional educational tours for performing groups, with itineraries that feature beautiful venues throughout the world. Our company enjoys an enviable history with its Performance Tours Division, one that specializes in assisting music and dance ensembles who wish to tour Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Middle East.
ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

PROF. HELMUTH RILLING
Founder & Conductor, Gächinger Kantorei
Founder, Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart
Artistic Director Emeritus, Oregon Bach Festival

Helmuth Rilling, born in 1933 in Stuttgart, is acclaimed worldwide as a conductor, pedagogue and Bach scholar. In 1954, he founded the internationally recognized Gächinger Kantorei choir, which joined forces with the Bach Collegium Stuttgart as its regular orchestral partner eleven years later. It was at this time that Professor Rilling began his intensive work with the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Rilling has both fervently advocated neglected choral music of the Romantic period and promoted contemporary music by regularly commissioning and performing pieces by key composers of our time. He has toured across Europe, the United States, Canada, Asia and South America, either as guest conductor or with his own ensembles. Maestro Rilling has collaborated with the world’s first-class orchestras, including the Vienna Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic or Japanese NHK-Symphony Orchestra. He is co-founder and Artistic Director of the Oregon Bach Festival, which since its inception in 1970 has become one of America’s most prestigious music festivals. In 1981, he established the Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart, which initially focused on the promotion of J.S. Bach’s music and in the course of time grew into an exceptional institution that excels not only in its ensembles (Gaechinger Kantorei and Bach-Collegium Stuttgart) but devotes considerable resources to education and outreach through master classes, symposia and children’s programs. Working with young musicians from around the globe has always been a central focus of Rilling’s work.

Helmut Rilling received the UNESCO International Music Prize in 1994 and in 2003, he became an Honorary Member of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences. In November 2011 Maestro Rilling was awarded the prestigious Herbert von Karajan Music prize in Baden-Baden (the previous year’s recipient had been Daniel Barenboim). Helmut Rilling was honored for his unique lifetime engagement with Johann Sebastian Bach as well as his teaching activities around the world.

DR. ANTON ARMSTRONG
Tosdal Professor of Music & Conductor of St. Olaf Choir
St. Olaf College

Dr. Armstrong became the fourth conductor of the St. Olaf Choir in 1990 after ten years in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he had served on the faculty of Calvin College and led the Calvin College Alumni Choir, the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus, and the St. Cecilia Youth Chorale. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College and earned advanced degrees at the University of Illinois and Michigan State University. He is editor of a multicultural choral series for Earthsongs Publications and co-editor (with John Ferguson) of the revised St. Olaf Choral Series for Augsburg Fortress Publishers. In June 1998, he began his tenure as founding conductor of the Oregon Bach Festival Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy. A graduate of the American Boychoir School, Dr. Armstrong served for over twenty years on the summer faculty of their summer program ALBEMARLE and held the position of Conductor of the St. Cecilia Youth Chorale, a 75-voice treble chorus based in Grand Rapids, from 1981-1990. He has conducted the Troubadours, a 30-voice boys ensemble of the Northfield Youth Choirs, since 1991. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Boychoir School and the Board of Chorus America.
CONCERT TOUR PROGRAM

DAY 1 - Saturday, June 17, 2017
Meet at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany and transfer to Erfurt. Overnight Erfurt.

DAY 2 - Sunday, June 18, 2017
Morning 1st Rehearsal under Dr. Armstrong. Sightseeing of Erfurt incl. excursion to Arnstadt to visit the Bach Church. Evening 2nd Rehearsal under Dr. Armstrong. Overnight Erfurt.

DAY 3 - Monday, June 19, 2017
Day excursion to Eisenach to visit the Wartburg Castle including singing in the Festsaal of the Wartburg. Return to Erfurt and perform in the late afternoon Prayer Service at the Augustinian Monastery, where Luther was ordained as a Catholic monk. Evening 3rd Rehearsal under Dr. Armstrong. Overnight Erfurt.

DAY 4 - Tuesday, June 20, 2017

DAY 5 - Wednesday, June 21, 2017

DAY 6 - Thursday, June 22, 2017

DAY 7 - Friday, June 23, 2017
The programs end today after breakfast at your hotel.